

ALBUQUERQUE EVENING HERALD

SECTION TWO.

ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21, 1911.

PAGES 1 TO 8.

NEW MEXICO: THE LAND OF OPPORTUNITY

By H. B. HENING

Secretary New Mexico Bureau of Immigration

There are thirty-six million acres of public domain in New Mexico open to entry under the homestead and desert land acts.

By appropriations of congress and under the enabling act New Mexico has eleven million acres of land for the support of its common schools, its higher educational institutions, its penal institutions, etc. This great endowment guarantees thorough equipment for the education of every child of our present and future population.

There are approximately four million acres of land in New Mexico known to be irrigable from available surface water, storage and pumping. On this less than five hundred thousand acres are now under irrigation.

A recent census by experts shows 718,000 acres of land under cultivation without irrigation, or by dry farming. These experts declare that there are seventeen million acres of such land in New Mexico, over which the rainfall is sufficient for farming without irrigation.

One national irrigation project, the Carlsbad, at Carlsbad, has been completed. The greatest of all the government projects, the giant Elephant Butte, is under construction and the first unit has been completed.

Up to November 30, 1910, a total of 342 applications had been filed with the New Mexico irrigation department for the appropriation of water for irrigation and power purposes, covering a total proposed reclamation of more than 2,000,000 acres and a proposed expenditure of more than \$75,000,000.

Projects of the reclamation service and of private capital now under way will add one million acres to the irrigated area within the next five years.

The area of New Mexico is roughly 122,000 square miles, or 78,000,000 acres. This vast area includes altitudes varying from 2,900 to 14,000 feet above sea level and affords extraordinary climatic advantages.

The population of New Mexico (1910 census) is 327,000; an increase over 1900 of 65 per cent. This increase has come within the past five years and is chiefly composed of hardy, industrious American farmers.

The total value of New Mexico farm lands (1910 census) is \$144,000,000; an increase of \$80,000,000 over 1900, or 133 per cent in ten years.

There are 35,000 farms in New Mexico (census of 1910), of which only 1900 are in the hands of tenants and only 1700 of which are mortgaged.

The census of 1910 has shown that New Mexico not only has had a vast increase in its farming population and population, but that this increase is of freeholders who are actually cultivating the land, and that the speculative feature is almost entirely lacking. The increase in cultivation and in farming population has come principally within the past five years; or since the fact became generally known throughout the country that New Mexico is not a desert, and that over more than one-third of its area there is an average rainfall of more than 16 inches, or sufficient, according to experts, for farming without irrigation.

It has been demonstrated that, with the exception of the cactus lands, every product of the temperate zone will flourish on New Mexico soil. There is a ready market for every pound of produce of every character. The gross value of the New Mexico fruit crop in 1910 was \$8,000,000. With the sugar on hand now coming into bearing this will reach \$2,000,000 in five years.

Today the bulk of New Mexico's agricultural land stands undeveloped. Prices are very low. The land at prices now asked, forms an absolutely safe investment, with certainty of large returns. There is almost no element of risk. The development of these lands means fortune for the man who buys it.

National forest reserves alone cover 11,000,000 acres of New Mexico land. Much of this land carries merchantable timber. The lumber industry already has reached large proportions and is just in its infancy. The popular impression of New Mexico has been of sand and cactus and dry water courses. Yet more than half a million railroad ties are driven down the Rio Grande each season.

New Mexico's area of proven coal bearing land is enormous. Its unproven coal bearing areas are of astonishing extent. In the Raton coal fields alone, according to the United States geological survey, there are 30,500,000,000 tons of high grade coal, or sufficient to allow a production of 100,000,000 tons annually for 300 years. In addition to this field are the great deposits of McKinley, San Juan, Sandoval, Bernallillo, Valencia, Socorro and Lincoln, which, practically, are undeveloped.

Conservative mining experts are convinced that New Mexico in ultimate development will prove one of the greatest copper producing states; that it will be a heavy producer of iron, lead and zinc, and that its resources in gold and silver are tremendous. Practically all of the rare metals are found in New Mexico in passing quantities. One of the chief vanadium deposits of the world has recently been opened. Salt is produced profitably. Fire clay, building stone and even marble are abundant. Extensive prospecting is being done for gold.

There are more than 3,000,000 sheep in New Mexico, producing from \$6,000,000 to \$7,000,000 annually for the owners. The cattle industry is equally important and equally profitable.

New Mexico's climate is world-famous. It is a climate which lends every aid to agriculture. Outdoor work is possible every month in the year. The authorities are agreed that it is a climate which surpasses that of every other region in the world in its effect upon tuberculosis and all diseases of the respiratory organs. It is a climate which stands for health. New Mexico has been well named "the Land of Sunshine" and "Heart of the West Country."

New Mexico has entered upon a campaign of road construction. Its good roads commission is now engaged, with the aid of various counties, in building a great scenic highway from the north to the southern boundary, which will be one of the most remarkable roads of its kind in the world, opening not only hundreds of miles of wonderful scenery but hundreds of miles of agricultural regions, heretofore made difficult of access because of bad roads. Good road construction is under way in every county in New Mexico at this time and within eighteen months it will be possible to reach every important point by automobile and without discomfort.

In dealing with the natural resources of New Mexico and the opportunities offered in the new state for the investment of capital and for development, it is difficult to avoid apprehension. To the person even casually familiar with these resources, they vary widely in character and extent, their very magnitude is likely to impress statements and sound like exaggeration and over estimation. The office of the New Mexico bureau of immigration, in all its advertising matter and in the considerable publicity which it has been able to secure during the past few years has always been looing well within the facts, in underestimate rather than overestimate, showing that the truth about New Mexico is enough and that if we can set the stage before the country, really cultivating, it will be seen that it is needed to insure speedy and far-reaching development and large increase in population. New Mexico has suffered severely because of false impressions which have gone out through the country both as to the character of our people and the character of our lands. We have been represented for so long as part of the long since departed wild and woolly west that it is difficult to convince people, especially this part of our

country, of the progress of the great undeveloped region beyond. Yet the mere fact of the resources mentioned when one begins to understand the extent of silent wealth in land and water, forest and pasture and mine. Just consider the following facts in the light of the present day demand for land and investment. New Mexico has four million acres of land which may be irrigated from definitely known sources of water, including diversion, storage and pumping. Of this less than fifteen acres are actually under cultivation this season.

Less than one sixth of the surface land flood water available for irrigation is now being put to beneficial use. New Mexico's water power resources are estimated in thousands of



The New Mexico Capitol at Santa Fe.

population in the extreme east that the percentage of serious crimes in New Mexico is less than in any other state in the union, that our people are industrious, law abiding, loyal Americans, deeply interested in the welfare and progress of the community. We have been represented for so many years as the extreme of the desert that it is difficult to convince the uninformed of our great resources in water for irrigation, or that there is one third of our area over which, according to the foremost experts, there is sufficient rainfall for farming without irrigation. Yet these false impressions are being overcome. Development in New Mexico up to very recent years has been slow. It is becoming more rapid, is gaining in momentum with every year. It has reached already the stage where it has commanded national attention and the time is now very short until the truth about New Mexico will be known throughout this country and when we will come into our own in population and development.

New Mexico has an area of 122,530 square miles of approximately 78,000,000 acres. Pains for a moment to consider the extent of this vast area. You may be told that it is an area greater than all the New England states excepting Maine, that within its borders are reaches of virgin forest greater in extent than those of the eastern states. Statements like these sound big, they are big,

horse power. Not a single important water power project has been developed.

Of literally hundreds of thousands of acres of coal bearing land, coal fields larger than any others in the west, only a few thousand acres have been developed.

Of approximately 15,000,000 acres of forest bearing land merchantable timber is being cut from less than five hundred thousand acres.

Although for the past five years the number of homesteads and other entries upon the public domain have averaged more than 8,000 a year, with a withdrawal each year of more than 2,600,000 acres, there remain still some thirty-five million acres open to entry.

The area of private land grants alone, the majority of them unbroken and containing a great area of fine land and much available water for irrigation, is more than 7,000,000 acres.

The new state will have for the support of its schools more than 11,000,000 acres of land which may be sold at less than \$3.50 an acre, and it is the present policy of the land department to sell none of this land at less than \$10 an acre.

The United States geological survey recently completed a remarkable survey of the ore deposits of New Mexico. The results of this work are set forth in a huge volume which discloses a wealth of copper and iron, gold and silver, lead and zinc, the rare metallic building stone, fire clay and even asbestos which has appealed even the veteran prospectors who are in this time have been the mineralists of New Mexico's great greatness as a mining state.

We have statement that New Mexico has the most marvelous mountain scenes in the world, does not consider fooling is believing. Yet we have to support the statement the services of an army of experienced trappers who have been able to explore New Mexico's mountain regions with the famous scenic countries of the world.

A mere catalog of resources, usually is a dry and uninteresting thing but when we assemble undeveloped resources such as the above and stop to consider what their ultimate development must mean to wealth and population, the result is staggering. Thorough understanding of these resources brings home with absolute conviction that the future growth and prosperity of New Mexico and its people has been guaranteed as mature, that it is a growth not to be denied, that it is a growth not to be denied, that instead of being the back yard of the nation, New Mexico is not only the nation's sanitarium, but also one of its chief strongholds. New Mexico is no longer the frontier. The way is clear for the transformation that has already set in and is gathering headway with every new mine that is opened, every new settler who makes a filing on the public domain, every irrigation project or pumping plant established.

There is no more frontier in the

new months ago the governor of New Mexico, Hon. William H. Mills, gave to a current magazine the following statement:

New Mexico is, in area, an empire in itself. It contains 225,000 square miles, and it will be the fourth state of the union in territorial extent, when it is admitted to the sisterhood of states, being only exceeded in size by Texas, California and Montana.

We are situated in the heart of the United States, the continental divide being at or near our western boundary. The waters of our streams flow both to the east and to the west, and contribute their mite to swelling the volume of both the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.

Great areas of our lands can be irrigated by conserving the waters of our streams, and millions of acres can be put to profitable use by means of "dry farming."

We have millions of cattle and sheep which graze upon our sunlit plains; forests of pines are in our mountain ranges; we have the largest known coal measures in the United States; great veins of copper, lead, zinc, and the precious metals, and vast quarries of marble and other stone, useful for ornamental and building purposes, lie within our borders.

The population of our territory, as I estimate it, and I must be conservative, for the census figures shortly will be published, is something over 330,000 people, only about two and three-fourths to each square mile.

The resources of New Mexico hardly have been touched. Our immense wealth is in an undeveloped state, and waiting for the hand and brain to move and bring it forth, so that it may contribute its part to the world's wealth, and do its share towards the upbuilding of society and making mankind more comfortable and happy.

There are in our territory, some three thousand miles of railway. For the most part they were not built to develop New Mexico, but were constructed as parts of great transcontinental systems, which had to go through our embryo state to connect the great states of the east, with the golden shores of California.

The benefits which we have derived from the railways, great as they have been, are mostly incidental, for New Mexico was not the objective point of most of the lines. They had to pass through New Mexico in order to arrive at the points they really desired to reach.

Now what is the reason that our wealth has not been laid bare to the world, and our limitless resources exploited?

Of course there is a reason for it, as there is for all things, and in my opinion, the underlying cause is that men of wealth have not had confidence in us, and have believed that it was not safe to live in, or invest their money within our borders. They were not right in these beliefs; for, as a whole, the people of New Mexico respect life and property rights as highly as the inhabitants of any state in the union, and who needed a nurse or guardian.

In my humble opinion, the one great drawback to our prosperity has been the fact that for sixty years we have been a territory. Nevada, Idaho, Wyoming, and numerous other western commonwealths have been taken into the union, while New Mexico and Arizona, heretofore, have not been offered the opportunity of becoming states, but have been kept in swaddling clothes, and have been reared like children who are too immature to look after themselves, and who needed a nurse or guardian.

Of course the investor would reason that there must be some cause for these two territories not being admitted as states, and but one reason would suggest itself, and that was that the people were not fit for statehood; that we had not the ability to govern ourselves. Of necessity, this belief, would prevent people from moving into our territory, and would tend to keep capital out, for we know that capital is timid.

If the convention, soon to be held in Santa Fe, to frame the organic law for the new state, shall make a safe, sane and wise constitution, which shall be adapted to the needs of New Mexico, not only as it is today, but when it has a million happy and contented inhabitants, and that constitution shall be adopted by the people, and we are admitted to the union, the cause of the present distress will be removed. For it will be convincing proof that both congress and the president believe that we are fitted to assume the responsibilities of statehood, and that we are on a plane with New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Illinois, California and the several other states; and people and capital will flow with an ever-increasing stream into our newly-born state, which speedily will become as great and prosperous as any of us ever have hoped for in our fondest dreams.

Since the above statement was given out the people of New Mexico have had placed before them and have adopted by a majority of 18,000 votes, a constitution which has been approved by the president of the United States and which has been termed by thoughtful men throughout the nation a sane, conservative, statesmanlike document, guarding carefully the rights of the individual and the people as a whole, progressive yet free from "isms," a fundamental law under which New Mexico may grow and prosper.

Within the next few months the first state government of New Mexico will have been organized. The new state will be on its way to that great development to which its vast natural resources entitle it.



There are millions of feet of merchantable timber like this in New Mexico. The lumber industry, already important, will rapidly become one of the country's great revenue producers.



Why go to Switzerland for scenery? New Mexico's great scenic highway shortly will make accessible the most wonderful scenery in the world.